

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2161**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025**

**Forest degradation in India**

2161. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 cites the Forest Rights Act i.e. the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as one of the reasons responsible for negative changes in forest cover or degradation of forests in India; and
- (b) if so, the details of this claim that links FRA to forest degradation?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 emphasises the importance of closely associating the tribal communities in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest, while safeguarding their customary rights and interests.

In this regard, the Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition Of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is being implemented which recognizes the rights of the forest dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources, on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other socio-cultural needs.

The *India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023*, prepared by the Forest Survey of India, has reported a substantial increase in forest and tree cover over the past decade. This positive trend is indicative of the active involvement of communities and local stakeholders in the management and restoration of forest resources.

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